

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## **Navigating**

*May 17, 2020*

Finding your way in the wilderness is no easy task, especially when the destination is uncertain, the terrain unknown and you have no map. Wilderness navigating requires a new set of skills. The Church will also need to learn new navigation skills if we are going to follow God off the map, through the wilderness and into the new reality that God is creating.

## **SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 13:17-22**

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### **BACKGROUND INFO**

“Undaunted Courage” is an incredible book about Lewis and Clark’s expedition. President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark to find “the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent, for the purposes of commerce.” In other words, they were looking for a water way that connected the East and West coasts of the country. Their journey began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1803. They traveled mainly by canoe until they reached the Continental Divide. They assumed that what lay beyond that divide would be much like a mirror image of the territory they had just come through. What they encountered was not rolling hills and winding rivers, but the Rocky Mountains. They were forced to abandon their canoes and learn a whole new way of navigating forward.

This coronavirus pandemic has been a bit like crossing the Continental Divide. We find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, forced to navigate in new ways. But even in the midst of these challenges there’s good news. God’s people have been here before. This is not the first time we’ve wandered through the wilderness of uncertainty. And each time God has not only proven faithful in guiding us and journeying with us, but in retrospect we’ve discover that the wilderness is the place in which God shapes us for whatever is next.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Think of an adventure you’ve been on. How did you prepare for the expedition? Did anything happen that caused you to change your course? Or challenge your resources? Tell the story.
- What similarities can you find in Lewis and Clark’s story and the story of the Israelites?
- Why do you think the wilderness is such a difficult space for us?
- Verse 22 is full of hope. How can we lean into that hope in our wilderness today?

**APPLICATION:** What have you learned about yourself during this pandemic? Take some time to acknowledge how God might be shaping you for our new reality.